

MORETON MORRELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15th March 2021

PRESENT: Councillors: R James, G Slora,
A Parry, C Monks,
E Edwards, B Keavy,
J Gordon
District Councillor: A Parry
County Councillor: A Parry
Clerk : P Routly

2 members of the public

Meeting held as Video Conference due to Covid 19

1. Public participation

None.

2. Apologies for absence

None .

3. Governance

a) Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None.

b) Freedom of Information – report on any new requests

None.

c) Code of Conduct / DPI

No updates declared.

4. Approval of minutes of previous meeting held on 18th January 2021

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18th January were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Gordon, seconded by Cllr Keavy, and unanimously accepted as a true record of proceedings.

5. District Councillors' Report – Cllr Parry

Cllr Parry pre-circulated her report:-

Full Council

At a meeting of Full Council on 22 February, SDC Councillors set the district element of the Council Tax with an increase of £5 for a band D property up to £149.12 per annum.

This means that all the services provided by the District Council cost £2.77 a week in a Band D household for a wide range of services including recycling and waste collection,

planning, street cleaning, housing, housing benefits, leisure services and children's play areas.

Although the collecting agent for Council Tax, the District Council only receives 7.5% of Council Tax paid by residents - Warwickshire County Council receives 77%, the Police 12.3% and Towns/Parishes 3.2%. This means the District Council only retains 7.5p of every £1 paid in Council Tax to provide services. The total Council Tax amount for a Band D property in Moreton Morrell will therefore be £2006.04

As part of the budget, the District Council also approved plans to work together with Warwick District Council to explore the opportunity to create a single statutory South Warwickshire Council covering all of the activities currently carried out by Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council by 1 April 2024. The first stage of this initiative received full cross-party support from councillors, providing a mandate to investigate the mechanics of the proposal in more detail and how it could work for both districts. As part of the process extensive public consultation would be undertaken at the appropriate time to assess the features, benefits and risks of undertaking such a venture.

A report by Deloitte, commissioned by the two District Councils, concluded that such a merger would result in savings of £4.6million over five years.

Warwick District Councillors also voted in favour of exploring the opportunity.

Green Bin Waste Charge

Over 30,000 households have already subscribed to the early bird offer for the green bin waste charge which increased from £35 to £40 on 1st March 2021.

Land Charges

House purchasers hoping to capitalise on the stamp duty window before it ends at the end of June can be reassured that all official land searches requested will be fulfilled by SDC's Land Search Team before the deadline. SDC has increased its resources over the last six months in response to the buoyant property market in order to significantly reduce the turnaround time down to three/four weeks.

Environmental Health

Officers from SDC's environmental health department have been in contact with shops and supermarkets in the district to check if COVID safety measures in shops are being enforced as strictly as they were during the first lockdown. These include enforcing social distancing, having good ventilation, ensuring staff wear face coverings, and increasing the frequency of cleaning the store.

If not, further actions may be taken, including warnings, fines, and even an appearance in court.

Wellesbourne Airfield Update

Whilst not in the parish there has been much reported about Wellesbourne Airfield in the media and in view of the interest locally thought it would be helpful to provide an update.

Since March 2019, SDC officers have been negotiating with the owners of the airfield to ensure the retention and enhancements of flying functions and aviation related facilities continue at Wellesbourne Airfield as part of the Council's Core Strategy policies.

As part of the negotiations, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was put in place between the Council and the owners of the airfield. This has ensured that aviation has continued at the site, whilst negotiations continue and all but one of the businesses operating from the airfield have been granted new tenancies. As highlighted in previous communications, SDC is unable to intervene in matters between landlords and tenants, despite requesting that all businesses at that time be granted new tenancies by the owners of the airfield.

Despite COVID-19 and allegations that the terms of the MoU have been breached, the MoU is continuing to serve its purpose, as aviation is continuing at the site and to terminate the MoU would likely bring about an early demise of the airfield which would be against the public interest.

Under the MoU the CPO process has been paused whilst constructive negotiations were ongoing, providing that aviation was continuing. To date this has been the case and SDC is actively engaging with the owners and their agents to find a mutually acceptable solution for the long term future of the site. However, if it is not possible to agree a solution it will be necessary to progress with CPO proceedings.

A budget of £1M was set aside to fund the necessary CPO work, and is still being maintained to support further CPO proceedings should they be needed.

Census 2021

Just a reminder to look out for information to complete the Census on 21 March 21. Nearer the time households will receive a letter with an access code to take part online, however paper forms will be available for those who need them.

6. County Councillors' Report – Cllr Parry

Cllr Parry pre-circulated her report:-

Firstly, I wish to let you know that I shall be standing down at the forthcoming Warwickshire County Council Elections in May. It's been a huge honour to represent the seven parishes across the Wellesbourne county division and whilst I shall miss the interaction and involvement with residents, I now wish to devote more time to my ward role as a Stratford on Avon District Councillor for Wellesbourne East.

The proposed merger of Stratford District Council with Warwick District Council to form a super South Warwickshire District Council heralds both an exciting but particularly busy time and this will be amplified as a member of Cabinet. As a relatively new Granny I also need to create more time to spend with the family!

Making a difference to communities has been my focus during my time with Warwickshire County Council and I am pleased to have helped initiate nearly £150k worth of new road safety schemes across the division and awarded £24k in grants to many community projects.

I am delighted to advise that Penny-Anne O'Donnell has been selected as the Conservative candidate for the Wellesbourne seat and she has my full support and brings extensive experience as a district councillor and chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Stratford District Council.

If Penny-Anne O'Donnell is elected I would ensure a smooth handover in respect of cases, issues and initiatives currently being progressed under my watch.

Council Tax

WCC is increasing its share of Council Tax by 2.99% with 1% ringfenced for Adult Social Care which represents an increase of £44.64 to £1533.51 per annum on a Band D property. In addition, Warwickshire Police has increased its precept by £14.99 to £252.96 which will be used in the recruitment and training of extra police officers, more special constables and a new state-of-the-art control room.

Covid19 Response

WCC and Public Health Warwickshire continues to play a vital role in managing infection rates, testing and the vaccine roll out across the county and this intense effort will be

continued and carefully monitored particularly with the adult social care and education sectors.

South Warwickshire Health Authority is also the UK's top performing area in terms of vaccine rollout based on percentage of population – a brilliant effort by everyone involved and especially all the volunteers. Please continue to look out for my regular Covid updates on the local scene and I will give an update on case numbers at the meeting.

Community Speed Watch

I have been in touch with PC Liam Allen from the local Safer Neighbourhood Team to look at the possibilities for a Community Speed Watch team of volunteers to participate in Moreton Morrell and Moreton Paddox. The issue is the restrictions imposed by Covid and also line of sight from what is considered a safe location. A Community Speed Watch team has to comprise a minimum of three people in operation at any one time and even been situated in the informal layby up by the post box at Moreton Morrell is not considered a safe location. The only place that is considered safe for a team to operate is in John Taylor Way which is not where we want to have a speed gun operating from.

I have also raised the problems with cyclists speeding through the village in their pelotons and the police will be looking at communicating to groups and issuing road safety messages via social media outlets and their newsletters.

7. Warwickshire College Report

WCG submitted the following report:-

Farm

The first lambs were born on the 1st of March and so far we have had just over 100 ewes lamb with the first ewes and lambs now going into the fields. On the 13-14th March we hosted a virtual lambing event with educational videos and also had live streaming of lambs being born via our Moreton Morrell College Facebook page. Access to this is still available through our website - wcg.ac.uk/lambing and Moreton Morrell college Facebook page - facebook.com/moretonmorrellcollege

The new series of informative videos about lambing has been created to help provide an educational insight for anyone interested in agriculture, including:

- Overview of lambing process
- Farm tour of Nethermorton Farm
- Hardening-off pens
- Adoption feeding
- Mothering pens
- The stocks
- Turning out the Lambs

Invitations to join in online were sent out to Primary schools right across Coventry and Warwickshire, Cotswold district and even South Leicestershire.

Estates

In preparation for the students' return we have increased cleaning across the site and set up a lateral flow testing facility. We have taken the opportunity presented by lockdown to carry out some long term maintenance projects. These include the Arden car park concourse leading to the White gates has been resurfaced, the Refectory has had replacement upvc doors & windows fitted, to improve energy efficiency and building security and the Animal Welfare toilets have been refurbished..

Ongoing projects include; the reconfiguring of the Refectory boiler to a stand alone system and the upgrading of the hot water pipework to Feldon residential building which is approximately 99% complete.

The long overdue refurbishment of the Cotswold Court sash windows is almost complete with some exterior decorating still outstanding. The decoration and carpeting throughout Cotswold Court will be completed shortly.

Staff and Students

We have been asked to offer COVID tests using Lateral Flow Devices to all returning students. COVID testing is not mandatory in schools or colleges, but strongly encouraged and we have contacted all students prior to their return to offer them access to a COVID test. We have created testing facilities at MM using guidance and PPE provided by the Government. All students will be offered 3 tests at a college facility and then offered a home testing kit to allow them to continue to test at home.

The College has since the start of the COVID pandemic introduced additional measures to mitigate and reduce the risk of transmission based upon Risk Assessment and these will continue. These measures include;

- Social distancing - 2 metre wherever possible and 1 metre plus additional measures if 2 metres was not achievable. This is encouraged in all indoor and outdoor spaces on campus, including on college and public transport.
- Hand-washing - sanitising stations are available all around college and we continue to recommend regular hand washing.
- Face coverings - we ask all staff and students to wear a face covering whilst they are indoors at college - both in the classroom and in social spaces around college. These are also required on all college and public transport.
- One way systems - in some parts of college these will be in operation to maintain separation between individuals.
- No Loitering - staff and students are asked to avoid standing in communal spaces.
- Class Bubbles - limit the mixing of student groups by creating class bubbles.
- Refectories - provide a takeaway only service to prevent groups mixing (except for residential students)
- Classrooms - to be used during break and lunch times to create a 'safe' environment to relax and eat.

Testing is being offered as an additional measure alongside the above measures and hopefully the combined measures will continue to reduce the risk of COVID transmission.

Students have returned just in time to be involved in the lambing season at the college, always popular with students and something that they were eager to do. Agriculture, Animal Welfare and Supported Learning students will all be involved and will gain valuable experience.

Countryside Management students are reviewing the habitat management projects completed in the Autumn term and will be monitoring wildlife activity on the college grounds to hopefully see the positive impact of their work which will hopefully increase wildlife biodiversity on the estate. We would be interested to know of any unusual local sightings please . We are certainly seeing Red Kites more frequently in the area.

A teenager with a lifelong love of animals has begun an apprenticeship that will kick-start her career and see her play a key role in the development of her employer's business. Halle Forster, 18, started volunteering at Purdy's Pet Shop on Cheveral Avenue in Radford,

Coventry, shortly after the business opened in January last year. Shop owner Becky Harrington was so impressed with her contribution that she has now taken her on full-time as an apprentice, studying Animal Care and Welfare Level 2 through WCG Apprenticeships.

With lockdown restrictions we have run the spring term's planned events all remotely, as virtual events. This includes a virtual open event for Moreton Morrell held in January with the next one planned for March 16th. We hope to re-open physical visits to the college by potential students in May if restrictions are eased further on 17th May, and hopefully to hold a full open event in June if the final restrictions are eased on 21st June.

8. Sub Committee Reports and Updates

a) Playing Field – Cllr Edwards lead / Clerk

i) Fencing of Farm Drive - quotes – Clerk

The Clerk informed the meeting she had sought quotes from 5 companies, many declined due to the size of the job (too big or too small), but two quotes were received, one from Morris fencing of Stratford for £3305.83+VAT, and one from ID fencing of Warwick for £1550+VAT. The Morris quote was to concrete the posts, which was not felt necessary. After discussion Cllr Edwards proposed accepting the lowest quote, this was seconded by Cllr Parry and carried unanimously. It was also agreed that the main gate would need to be able to be locked. *Clerk to appoint ID fencing.*

ii) Inspection Report- Clerk

The Clerk had pre-circulated the latest annual inspection, all issues raised were classed as low risk or very low risk, but there were a few of those relating to the new equipment. It was agreed to raise with Kompan. *Clerk to follow up.*

Use of the Lengthsman would also be explored for the minor items.

b) Planning – Cllr Parry lead

i) Local Housing need update – Sarah Brooke-Taylor

Sarah was not able to attend due to illness.

ii) Enquiry from Enquiry from Marriott Land– Cllr Parry

Cllr Parry explained she had received a letter from a 'land promoter' thinking the Triangle Field could be developed to meet the needs of the housing survey conducted by WRHA. Cllr Parry confirmed she responded that the need is for social houses, and the expectation is that the land would need to be donated or sold for a minimal fee. Also PC would only consider supporting development if the playing field was donated to the Parish and access to the college grounds for walking re-instated.

c) Speed awareness / Road Safety – Cllr Gordon lead

i) Update

Cllr Gordon confirmed there were no more updates other than those in Cllr Parry's report.

d) Village Appearance – All

i) Update

ii) Street light upgrade - Clerk

The Clerk confirmed the LED street light upgrade was almost complete with one post by Oak Tree Close remaining, there had been one complaint that is now resolved.

Mac Howarth raised the issue of water the planters, it was agreed the planters would continue to have more permanent planting that would only need occasional watering. Cllr James and Cllr Slora offered to water if needed in the summer.

The subject of the damaged village sign was raised, the Clerk explained she never had a response from the police . Cllr Parry offered to follow up and it was also agreed to seek a quotation for a replacement.

Mac Howarth reported the new post box was in place , he was thanked for reporting .

e) Footpaths – Cllr Slora lead

i) Update

ii) Map

Cllr Slora informed the meeting the footpath committee would seek permission from Pilkington Estates to replace the stiles toward Little Morrell.

The possibility of an illustrated footpath map was discussed, and all agreed it was a good idea. Cllr Parry said it might be a possibility of the next WCC grant. It was resolved to seek costs from Simon Powell of Roundbox Creative in Ashorne , who undertook a project for Walks around Wellesbourne . *Clerk to follow up.*

f) Village Hall and Church – Cllr Keavy lead

i) Hall Covid Grants

The Clerk informed the meeting she had sought an update from Mike Harwood to understand if the Hall Committee had claimed all the Covid support grants that were available, but had not received a reply. Cllr Parry confirmed she had spoken to SDC but they could not find any records. *Cllr Keavy agreed to follow up with Mike*

9. Matters arising from previous meetings

a) Banking update and recommendation to move to Unity Trust

The Clerk had pre-circulated a report confirming the HSBC were not able to offer online dual authorisation banking, and what they could offer presented a risk that does not meet NALC guidelines. The report recommended moving banking to Unity Trust, as many other councils have, as they can offer this service. Cllr Slora proposed moving, Cllr Parry seconded, and it was carried unanimously. *Clerk to instigate the move.*

10. New items

a) May Elections in Ashorne Village Hall – Transport – Cllr Edwards

b) Electric Vehicle Charging – Cllr Monks

The Clerk confirmed due the Covid restrictions and space the polling for Moreton Morrell would take place in Ashorne Village Hall. Cllr Edwards had raised this as a concern especially for those with no transport. Solutions were discussed , but for Covid safety reasons offers transport was impractical, instead it was agreed people should use a postal vote.

Cllr Monks had raised the subject of public charging points for electric vehicles in the Village. Cllr Parry said she would investigate.

11. Planning

a. New Applications to consider at this meeting

None.

b. Decisions of committee since last meeting for information

20/03110/FUL Replacement single storey rear extension. 11 Oaktree Close Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9BB – **No Objection**

21/00238/VARY Vary condition two (plans) of 20/01055/FUL (dated 26.10.2020) to incorporate changes to roof and fenestration. Centaur Biomechanics Moreton Road Moreton Morrell CV35 9BD – **No Objection**

21/00003/OUT Erection of a single storey, three bedroom, local needs dwelling (outline). Old Garden House Moreton Paddox Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9BS - **Support**

21/00472/FUL Full planning application for a vehicular access onto the public highway from The Lodge. The Lodge Duffus Hill Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9BP – **No Objection**

c. District Decisions for information

20/03253/FUL Erection of 1.5 Storey side extension to replace existing single storey garage The Russetts 1A Brook Lane Moreton Morrell CV35 9AT . **Permission with conditions**

20/03313/FUL & 20/03310/FUL Additional flat roof light to planning permission 17/01496/FUL

Brookside Brook Lane Moreton Morrell CV35 9AT . **Permission with conditions**

20/03460/FUL Change of use of first and second floors into letting bedrooms and diversification of existing pub use to involve the sale of food on the premises. Alterations to the building to comprise adaptations to front, side and rear elevation fenestration and doors and the construction of a timber canopy/ pergola to rear beer garden. The Black Horse Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AR **Permission with conditions**

20/02759/FUL Two storey rear extension and new detached garage. With solar panels to side facing roof slope. The Old Post Office Main Street Moreton Morrell . **Permission with conditions**

20/02853/FUL Demolition of existing garage serving Wishing Well Cottage and parts of boundary wall, erection of new garage/parking area for Wishing Well Cottage, erection of one local market dwelling and garage, and all associated works. Moreton House And Wishing Well Cottage Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AR **Refused at Committee.**

21/00139/TREE -T1 ash: Fell. Village Hall Moreton Morrell – **Withdrawn**

20/03110/FUL Replacement single storey rear extension. 11 Oaktree Close Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9BB – **Permission with Conditions**

12. Finance

a. Approval of payments (to be circulated)

The following payments were proposed by Cllr Keavy, seconded by Cllr Gordon, and approved unanimously.

1.	WCC Street light annual maintenance	£130.42 (paid)
2.	SDC path play field path licence	£250.00 (paid)
3.	P Routly Salary + back pay	£813.66
4.	P Routly Expenses – Jan/Feb	£108.70
5.	BT Hall wifi Jan/Feb (P Routly)	£59.98
6.	HMRC PAYE tax	£20.20
7.	Play Inspections	£186.00
8.	PATA payroll Jan – Mar	£18.40
9.	WCC Allotment rent	£180.00
10.	EON Street Lights elec – Jan Feb	£202.98

b. Receipts (to be circulated)

The Clerk reported the following receipts:-

- | | |
|-------------------|---------|
| 1. Allotment rent | £180.00 |
|-------------------|---------|

13. Correspondence – all circulated by email

All circulated by email over the past 2 months.

14. Matters of interest – future meeting agenda items.

It was agreed the next meeting would discuss the opening of the playing field, and next steps for the Village Hall.

15. Any other business allowed by Chairman

None.

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will a video conference via Zoom (unless circumstances change), the date is Monday 17th May 2021.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.